(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government are ready to deny specific cases mentioned in the news-item?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On receipt of a complaint alleging irregularities in certain naval procurements, the matter was got investigated. Further action on the findings contained in the investigation reports has been initiated.

Upgradation of Technology in Navy

2149. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief of the Naval Staff has submitted a report to Government making extensive recommendations regarding upgradation of technology and modernisation of training programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to prepare perspective plan for the development of Navy to enable it to face its new challenge in the next century?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Modernisation and Development of Navy is an ongoing process dictated primarily by the threat perceptions and prevailing external strategic/security environment as also the emerging technologies. With increased emphasis on induction of high technology, naval platforms are programmed for periodic upgradation in technology.

Decline in Teaching Standards of IAF School

†2150. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior secondary school at Race Course in New Delhi is being run by Indian Air Force; if so, the number of such type of schools and the officials appointed for their management;

(b) whether the standard of teaching and level of discipline in the above school at Race Course have been declining for the last two years; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to improve the standard of education and provide other facilities in the above schools; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The Senior Secondary School at Race Course is being run by the Indian Air Force with

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

95% financial aid provided by the Delhi Government. There is only one more such Government-aided Senior Secondary School of the Air Force in New Delhi at Air Force Station Palam. The Senior Education Officer of the respective Air Force Stations looks after the management of these schools.

(b) No, Sir. The pass percentage of Class-XII Board Examination in 1998 and 1999 was 95% in each year.

(c) Does not arise.

International Fleet Review

2151. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to host International Fleet Review at the Mumbai anchorage; if so, by when and the details thereof;

(b) the number of countries likely to participate; and

(c) the preparations made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) International Fleet Review to be held at the Mumbai anchorage in mid February 2001 is being organised by the Indian Navy. It is expected that 20—25 countries will participate in the event.

Pirates in Custody of Coast Guards

2152. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some pirates from Indonesia are in the custody of Indian Coast guards;

(b) if so, the number of such pirates arrested; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There are no pirates in the custody of the Coast Guard.

(b) and (c) Fifteen persons who had pirated the ship "MV Alondra Rainbow" were apprehended in a joint operation by the Coast Guard and the Navy were handed over to the police for investigations.

Fall in Production in Ordnance Factories

2153. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production in ordnance factories has been registering sharp fall for want of recruitments;